

## START THE CONVERSATION

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Car crashes caused by teen drivers are the #1 killer of teens in America today. As you read the statistics below, keep in mind the most telling statistic of all: According to a recent survey 89% of teens said their parents have the biggest influence on how they drive .

### THE EPIDEMIC

No other kind of hazard comes close to claiming as many teenage lives, including teenage homicides (13%) and suicides (11%). (2002 figures). Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among American teenagers, killing between 5,000 and 6,000 teenagers every year.

### A TEENAGER'S ODDS

Teenage drivers account for 12.6% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes. The fatal crash rates among 16 to 19-year-olds is four times that of older drivers. Risk is the highest at age 16, when the fatal crash rate is 40% higher than for 18 year olds and 30% higher than for 19 year-olds.

## THE ENEMIES\*

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### CELL PHONES

- 56% of teens said they make and answer phone calls while driving. Talking on a cell phone can double the likelihood of an accident and can slow a young driver's reaction time to that of a 70-year-old.
- 13% of teens said they send and respond to text messages while driving.

### SPEEDING

- 17% of teens said speeding is fun.
- 55% of teens said they exceed the speed limit by more than 10 mph.
- 26% of self-identified "aggressive" teen drivers reported speeding by more than 20 mph over the limit.
- 69% of teens who speed said they do so because they want to keep up with traffic.

### PEER PRESSURE

- 44% of teens said they drive more safely without friends in the car.
- 67% of teens said they have felt unsafe when someone else was driving.
- Only 45% said they would definitely speak up if someone was driving in a way that scared them.
- 37% said they would ride with one or more friends who speed in the coming year.

## THE ALLIES

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### SEAT BELTS

Wearing lap/shoulder belts can reduce the risk of dying in a crash by 45%. Teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use.

### CURFEWS

- Over 40% of teen auto deaths occur between the hours of 9pm and 6am.
- Almost 60% of teens' nighttime auto deaths occur before midnight.

\*Statistics on teen views are from a recent Allstate Foundation survey.